105. **(Amended)** A method of determining whether an analyte polynucleotide is present in a test sample in an amount greater or less than a pre-determined value, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample to be analyzed for the presence of said analyte polynucleotide, said analyte polynucleotide being selected from the group consisting of a viral polynucleotide, a bacterial polynucleotide, a fungal polynucleotide, a protozoan polynucleotide, and a human polynucleotide;

combining said test sample with an amount of a pseudo target;

co-amplifying in a polynucleotide amplification reaction the pseudo target and any analyte polynucleotide contained in said test sample to produce amplification products that include a pseudo target amplicon and an analyte amplicon, wherein said analyte amplicon is present in an amount that is dose-dependent on the amount of said analyte polynucleotide present in said test sample; and

quantitatively detecting said analyte amplicon using a detection system calibrated **to indicate a positive result upon detecting an amount of analyte amplicon [to have a detection threshold corresponding to a signal strength]** arising from co-amplification of said amount of said pseudo target and an amount of analyte polynucleotide **[corresponding] equal** to **or greater than** said pre-determined value, wherein **[detection of]** a **[signal above or below said threshold of detection] positive result** indicates that said analyte polynucleotide is present in said test sample in an amount **[that is respectively] equal to or** greater **[or less]** than said pre-determined value**, and wherein a negative result indicates that said analyte polynucleotide is present in said test sample in an amount less than said pre-determined value**.

116. **(New)** The method of Claim 105, wherein said detection system is selected from the group consisting of a chemiluminescent detection system, a fluorescent detection system, an optical detection system, and an electro-chemical detection system.